



The Pattenmaker

WEEKLY NEWS FROM AROUND THE LIVERY

Issue 27

Friday 2nd October 2020

From the Master Elect, Jennifer Bryant-Pearson



This is the Master's last week in office prior to the Admissions ceremony for new Wardens on 8th October. He writes of his fascinating year and also leads the new series on Court members for which the gallant Clerk has

provided a guide to the Court's role.

One of his last events was the election of the Lord Mayor which he attended at Common Hall. We provide the details today, together with a photograph of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress as they begin their second year along with our own Sheriff, Past Master Chris Hayward and his wife, Alexandra Hayward and Sheriff Michael Mainelli and Elizabeth Mainelli – suitably socially distanced!

Freeman Jamie Ingham Clark provides a very personal history of the Honourable Artillery Company with which he has been involved for 16 years in service, and 25 years as a veteran. Veteran members make up the Company of Pikemen and Musketeers and are very familiar from their presence at the Lord Mayor's Show.

The Lord Mayor's Show will not take place this year and the Marathon – one of our major fundraising events has also been cancelled for all runners except an elite few. Please read Jack Clark's note about his personal marathon this coming weekend, and we should very much appreciate any sponsorship you can provide, as

all the money he raises will go to our charitable fund.

We have an update from the Sea cadets and Assistant Steve Huxham takes us into the artistic world of past member, William Delamotte.

We are delighted to welcome the newest member of the Lamb family in our Members' news.

Freeman Richard Parlour has had a busy week with his Cyber Security talk - from which he has listed his top ten tips for security – and his regular avian column which this week highlights the Grey Wagtail

Sharon Judge tells us of her time in Japan and provides a delicious Miso recipe and look out for the Clerk's Photo of the week alongside his regular Quiz.

I hope that as many of you than can will join us for the Admission Ceremony next Thursday 8th October – the Clerk has sent out the details separately.

From the Master, Dr David Best My final message (at least as Master!)



I am writing to you this week with not so much of a farewell message as a transitional one. As you will have read last week, next Thursday the 8th October we will conduct our first

virtual admissions ceremony of the Master and Wardens “for the year ensuing” as the language of the City puts it.

This week my final engagement outside the company, was to attend a very unusual Common Hall for the election of William Russell (Haberdasher) as Lord Mayor for a second term in view of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In our own case my own term of office has extended until this month, although Jennifer was confirmed as Master Elect in January.

I can say without reservation that this last year has been a tremendous one and full of memorable events. The Election of PM Hayward as Sheriff in June, which many of you helped to happen- that amazing lunch afterwards at Armourers Hall where we were cheered to the rafters by a jubilant company of more than 100 of our Livery. A Palace garden party, our Summer party where although not a huge group in number we more than made up for it in enthusiasm, the October dinner at which Freeman Group Captain Teresa Griffiths CBE ARRC made a most moving and enthralling speech, our Mansion House Banquet and many other events stick in my mind. On the internal side, we now have our first Webmaster, David Emanuel, and the on-line shop and many other developments in the pipeline. The new History book coming out this month, and lots more that Jennifer has in hand.

It has been a privilege and an honour to be your Master and certainly one of the highlights of my professional and personal life.

I know that the new team, Jennifer as your Master, Sarah, and Patrick Tyrrell, and the new Trade Warden, Liveryman Martin Pickard will be a tremendous success, and I wish them and all the company well. As Past Master I will look forward to many more (and perhaps more relaxing) events in the future.

With my warmest wishes
David

City of London Corporation

Election of the Lord Mayor

The Lord Mayor has asked that his thanks be conveyed to all the Livery following his election for a second term of office at Common Hall yesterday. The understanding of the Livery, particularly in relation to the special arrangements this year, is very much appreciated. The Lord Mayor is grateful for the support he has received and he and the Lady Mayoress are looking forward to working closely with the Livery throughout his extended Mayoralty.



The Honourable Artillery Company Freeman L/Sgt Jamie Ingham Clark CC - HAC 1977-1993

One of the standout moments of each Lord Mayor’s show is seeing the great coach being escorted by the Pikemen and Musketeers of the Honourable Artillery Company, the personal ceremonial bodyguard of the Lord Mayor. In most years there is also a marching detachment and the guns of the regiment taking part. These are all a sign of the close association of the City with that regiment, but I suspect most liverymen know little of its history or customs, so here are my reflections after 16 year’s service and at least 25 as a veteran member.



*Pikemen
and
Musketeers*

The Regiment is the second oldest continuous military body in the world, being piped to the post by the Pontifical Swiss Guard having been founded just 31 years before the HAC. The Regiment received a charter in 1537 from King Henry VIII, this being our earliest recorded document, but it regularised an existing body of trained bands in the city, so we could be older, but can't prove it. The charter was granted to swell the royal coffers as that King was always short of money for his various wars against France. The Charter was given to the "Fraternity or Guild of Artillery of Longbows, Crossbows and Handguns", which was also to be a perpetual fraternity of St George. According to the charter, the Fraternity was intended for "the better increase of the defence of this our realm and maintenance of the science and feat of shooting in longbows, crossbows and handguns." All of these were a form of artillery in the language of that day, the big guns on wheels being "Greta Artillery".

The Regiment's first role was to protect the King's peace in the City, long before the City of London Police were formed. This role is probably most famously demonstrated in the picture of the members of the Regiment firing on the Mob during the Gordon Riots in 1780. Of course, only after the Riot Act had been read! By the late Victorian era the Regiment was part of the militia and formed part of the City of London Imperial Volunteers during the Boer War. In fact that is our first Battle Honour.

During the First World War the artillery side of the Regiment expanded to 5 batteries and a second infantry battalion was also raised. It is from these units that most of our Battle Honours come. Some 13,000 served with the Regiment in this war and some 1,650 were killed in the conflict. Many of these were recruited from City businesses and although many were commissioned, most went straight to the front line with the inevitable consequences.

In the Second World War the lesson of the first was learnt and the infantry side became an officer training unit, but the guns remained in action mainly in North Africa and Italy. Some 700 men

who had served with the HAC, even if only for training, lost their lives in this war.

Whilst conscription remained in force the regiment continued as both Infantry and Artillery, but with the various reductions in defence spending, there is now a single unit providing an artillery reconnaissance role, using cavalry designations, so neither prior tradition could claim precedence. One other great change in recent years was the admittance of women to the membership of the regiment which started in the 1990's.

There are a number of unique features about the regiment, which are often poorly understood. Infantry regiments traditionally used their Colours (regimental flags) as a rallying point in battle and they are therefore revered and protected as an embodiment of the unit. Artillerymen needed no such symbol as they would rally to their guns. The HAC is unique in having both, recognising its long and complicated history.

The fact we have a Royal Charter is unique and remains a source of pride for us. It shows we are incorporated and allows us to have our own coat of arms as well as the usual regimental insignia. It also caused the government problems when it wanted to bring the HAC fully into the control of the War Office as the argument was that Parliament could not override a Royal Warrant. I believe that as a result, the Regiment received a Royal favour as a bribe and fell into line with the Honourable Artillery Act of 1907. The royal bribe was the use of a distinctive medal ribbon for the long service decoration, using the colours of the royal household. This remains the case today and the charter, I believe, has dissuaded successive governments from any plans to merge the regiment with other units.

Other unique feature is that we own our own property in City Road, a function of having incorporated status. For the non-military side of the organisation, we are run by a Court of Assistants, similar to a Livery Company. In fact, due to the City's past funding of the regiment, all Aldermen are ex officio members of the Court. The property is just outside the City as it was not

keen to have an instrument of the Crown inside the City walls, but to have it close enough to deal with trouble when needed.



Armoury House, HAC Headquarters

The Regiment is the premier unit with the Privilege or Freedom of the City. It permits it to parade with Drums beating, Flags Flying and Bayonets Fixed. Units without this honour, in theory, have to march through in drab silence!

Veteran members are those who have served at least five years in the active unit, and it is from them that the Company of Pikemen and Musketeers is raised. They were formed in 1955 and use the dress of the Regiment at the time of the restoration of the monarchy and their drill is from a drill book of the same era. The words of command have changed over the years so where we now use 'Stand Easy', they use 'Adopt a Lazy Posture"! Similarly, a Light Cavalry Squadron was reformed in the late 1980's and has become the personal bodyguard of the Lady Mayoress and can be seen particularly on Lord Mayor's Show day, lining the entrance to the Law Courts. The Regiment has other Royal favours such as the monarch being our Captain General, a title also used by the Royal Marines, and for the infantry to wear the same uniform as the Grenadier Guards, but wearing silver designations instead of gold, to show they were volunteers.



Light Cavalry

Whilst being part of the Territorial Army for most of the last century it is now in the Army Reserve. Many members still gain experience with

detachments to the regular army, but that has resulted in at least one death on active service.



The author serving in HAC as member of Corps of Drums



The author as a weapon training instructor.

The Regiment has a long and interesting history and this article can only touch the surface of that, but it is proud of its part in the past present and future defence of this realm.



The HAC marching through the City

Our Charitable Fund

The Marathon The Master Elect

Sadly the 2020 marathon, which was rescheduled from April to this coming Sunday, has been cancelled.

There will instead be a small event for elite runners only and the huge fundraising marathon will now take place in October 2021.

We are optimistic that all 5 of our runners will be able to participate then and they will do everything possible to raise significant funds for our charitable fund.

The loss of this year's marathon presents a very significant drop in our annual fundraising efforts but we are determined to continue our support of our charities this year, as these donations are more important than ever.

One of our runners, Jack Clark, is a first time marathon participant and he has volunteered to run anyway next Sunday and he would be very grateful for any sponsorship you can provide as all money he raises will go to the Pattenmaker Charitable Foundation.

Jack has a fundraising page on Just Giving: [Jack Clark Fundraising](#) and has already raised £600 as you will see from his article below.

Please support Jack in his endeavours on Sunday – the route he is running is shown below.

All donations can be made via his Just Giving page or direct to the Pattenmakers Charitable Foundation.

It would be wonderful if we could boost his donations to £1000!

Jack Clark



It has been a dream of mine to run the London marathon for a long time and to run it for a good cause. I have applied for many years to no avail, but one day in conversation with my father Liveryman John Clark, an opportunity

came up with the Pattenmakers. So of course, excited by this, I jumped at the opportunity. I was then to learn that running for the Pattenmakers Charitable Foundation could mean supporting the upgrading of a café area in the hospital that is looking after some of the men and women of our armed forces that have returned from conflict with life changing injuries. Upgrading it such that families can be closer to these people to support them during such an important time. Learning this over a wonderful dinner at the Guildhall with many other Pattenmakers exploded my excitement and I jumped in to training and fundraising headfirst. I am now a week away (Sunday 4th October) from running 26.2 miles around my local area from Aylesbury to Marlow in Buckinghamshire and I have raised a total of £600 thus far. I am very much looking forward to raising even more for the cause and potentially running the real thing in London in 2021!



Military Affiliations

Sea Cadets

Renter Warden Elect Commodore Patrick Tyrell OBE Royal Navy received an update from Martin J Coles Chief Executive Officer, Marine Society and Sea Cadets

It seems another world when we arranged for you to join our Sunday Sea Day aboard TS Royalist planned for 04 October. So much has changed for us all and I am sure it will be no surprise that in the light of Covid-19 restrictions we are having to cancel Sunday Sea Day.

As you might imagine we had to cease all Sea Cadet face to face activities in March as a result of

the pandemic. This included ceasing all offshore voyages. We moved quickly to develop from a standing start Virtual Sea Cadets so that our incredible volunteers could continue to deliver in some form to our 15,000 young people in units all over the UK. As the lockdown lifted we were able to begin to put the arrangements in place for returning to face to face delivery in a Covid Secure manner, commencing with inshore boating at a number of centres across the UK through the summer, where government restrictions allowed and supporting units to prepare for return to local activities. As of today around 45% of our units are now back to some form of face to face activity and this is growing daily. This is all involving significant work and of course like many charities we have experienced a sharp fall in key areas of income generation requiring some difficult decisions. But it is clear that the Sea Cadet Experience, in whatever form, continues to deliver real impact, confirmed in a survey of our cadets at the outset of the pandemic where 72% viewed their time with Sea Cadets had equipped them to be able cope with the challenges they were facing at this time.

Offshore is a key part of the experience we offer. I am pleased to report therefore that we are working to pilot some limited Covid Secure day running of our offshore power vessels from the coming half term, beginning to put the 'Sea' back in Sea Cadets. If successful we are planning on expanding this for early next year in ports around the UK. We are yet unclear when it might be safe for us to return to delivering the week long voyages to our young people, not least due to current restrictions on residential activity. But when this is possible we hope to be able to recommence Sunday Sea Days in some form and would be delighted to welcome you to join us for a voyage.

My apologies again for having to cancel the voyage, but I will keep you updated on further progress.

In the interim I hope you, your wife and the Company of Pattenmakers are all keeping well!

Our History

Notable Members of the past – artist William Delamotte (1775 – 1863) Court Assistant Steve Huxham

One of the most valuable bonuses generated by the project to create the new History Book is that, thanks to the remarkable efforts of Liveryman Dr Stephen Cribb, we have for the first time ever a nearly complete database of all our Members from 1669 onwards. The “nearly” part means adding all the Admissions for the last 70 years, which may sound a lot, but it is a manageable project compared to the scale of what has already been achieved. The team visited this “treasure store” several times during the writing of the Book to identify individuals whose stories could be included, as being either noteworthy, distinguished, famous, or even downright eccentric and exotic!

Clearly, there are many more fascinating discoveries to be made in the future – it is simply down to available time to research some who might not be such generally well-known names today. One example recently found is the artist William Delamotte, who was Admitted to the Company on 12 April 1820, and whose Admission Paper is still available in digitised format at Ancestry. Papers of that era often carry a footnote denoting the profession, and sure enough, William's has “artist” written on it.

William Alfred Delamotte was born in Weymouth as the son of a French refugee, and his drawing skills were apparent from an early age. He enjoyed the royal patronage of King George III (a frequent visitor to the resort of course), and having exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1793, he then enrolled at the Royal Academy Schools the following year, becoming a student of Benjamin West, another of the King's protégés and President of the Royal Academy. His focus was primarily architectural and landscape subjects, even at this early stage of his career.



Oil painting: "Waterperry, Oxfordshire" 1803.

Thanks and credit to Tate Collection

After completing his studies he moved to Oxford, where the buildings formed the basis of many of his works, and then In 1803 he accepted the post of drawing-master at the newly established Royal Military College, Sandhurst, a position he held for forty years.

Although he did produce watercolours and a few oils, he was best known for his work as an engraver and lithographer. He was also said to be close friends with the watercolourist Thomas Girtin, and also with JMW Turner. He died in Oxford in 1863, at the age of 88.



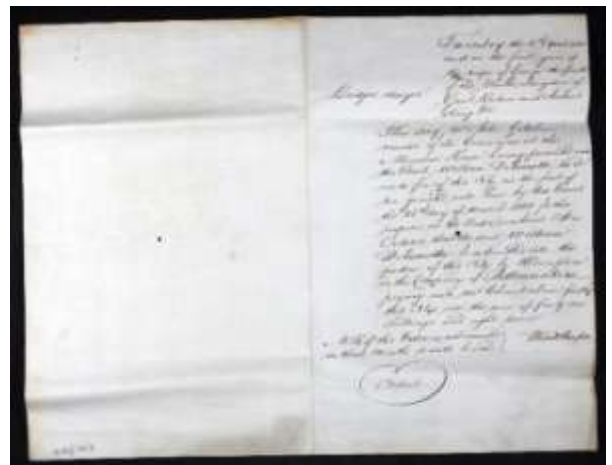
Pencil sketch: "Old London Bridge-sketched on the spot" - during demolition 1832. Sold by Abbott & Holder, August 2019.

We do not know at present what William's connection with the Pattenmakers was, nor how he was introduced. Likewise, for an artist whose large body of works is still widely held by institutions such as the Tate, The British Museum, The Victoria & Albert Museum, and many others, it is remarkably difficult to find a likeness of the man himself! A reproduction of a portrait by

Thomas Phillips and exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1802 has finally emerged, to give some visual sense of our Member.



Thomas Phillips portrait of William Delamotte for Royal Academy 1802 Exhibition.



1820 Admission Certificate.

Members' News

Past Master Stuart Lamb

Our new granddaughter Annabel Ruth Rosie Wheeler weighed in at 7lbs 7oz (in old currency!) so very healthy and all good.



Parents Fergus and Charlotte (Lamb) are both Pattenmakers (they joined separately before they married). They live in Islington currently but are remodelling a house in a little Berkshire village called Shurlock Row near Waltham St Lawrence –

this will not be completed until next Summer. Both are Corporate Banking Lawyers and Charlotte is a non-executive Director of William Lamb Group.

The Court

The Clerk provides a background

Constitution and Governance

The Worshipful Company of Pattenmakers is incorporated by Royal Charter. The first charter was granted in 1670 and there have since been two supplemental charters of 1960 and 1981). Bye-Laws made under the 1670 charter were made in 1673. Livery was granted by the Court of Aldermen in 1717. The Charters and Bye-Laws are reproduced in the Company's History and comprise the constitution of the Company, and specify such things as the officers (Master, Wardens etc) the oaths to be made on admission and so on. A coat of arms was granted by the College of Arms and a copy is on display in the Guild Church of St Margaret Pattens.

The Court

The Master, Wardens and Court (generally referred to as the Court) is similar to the board of directors of a limited company; it is the guiding hand and will of the Company. The Court comprises a maximum of twenty-five Liverymen of the Company. The twenty-five shall include: The Royal Patron, Master, Upper Warden, Renter Warden and the Warden to the Trade. The Warden to the Trade is a Court appointment for a period of one year which may be extended by one consecutive year. The Court decided that an equal mix of Past Masters and Court Assistants would be desirable; to that end it is a convention that the longest serving Past Master should move to the Honorary Court annually in March if required to enable a new Assistant to be appointed and return his or her badge, if owned by the Company, to the Clerk. Members of the Court attending less than half of the Court meetings in a year could be asked to consider their position.

The Trustee of The Pattenmakers Company Charitable Foundation is the Company. The Company's powers and duties as Trustee are

discharged by the Court. Members of the Court are thus treated as if they each were individually a trustee and as such are subject to all responsibilities and liabilities imposed by law.

The Directors of Pattenmakers Events Limited will normally be the Company's Master, the Immediate (Junior) Past Master, Upper Warden and Renter Warden who hold office at the time. It will be a subsidiary of the Company which is its only shareholder. The Company Secretary is appointed by the Board of Directors and is presently the Honorary Treasurer.

The Honorary Court

Past Masters only may move to the Honorary Court. Members of the Honorary Court are invited to attend all Court Meetings and participate fully but do not have voting rights at Court Meetings.

We will be featuring all the Court members over the coming weeks and start the series with the Master, Dr David Best

It was not until I had almost stopped working in the City, that I joined the Livery. As a partner in Deloitte in the City of London, I had been invited to many Livery events, and in fact my partner Sir David Rowe Ham, who died recently was Lord Mayor during the nineties, and several of my partners were Aldermen, but living away from London, and with a young family it never occurred to me to become involved!

In around 2001, I was at lunch with a former Pattenmaker, who was also a former client and friend, and the conversation turned to the Livery; he expressed surprise that I was not already a Liveryman, and immediately suggested that I join the Pattenmakers. He very kindly invited me to a dinner and in 2002 I became a Freeman, and two years later was clothed.

I had a flat in the city at that time but was working primarily abroad and living in Paris. Somehow, I don't recall how, I joined the Education Committee and took on the liaison role with the Guildhall School of Music. The Company's relationship with Guildhall was one of the reasons for joining- I am an amateur Double

Bass player and music has meant an enormous amount to me throughout my life. Were it not for the generosity of my teacher when I left school, I should not own an instrument, and that huge pleasure and enrichment over the course of the last 57 years would have been lost to me. It was therefore extremely important to me that the Company supported those who would otherwise not be able to afford to benefit from the education that Guildhall School provides.

From this, you will gather that I don't come from a wealthy family- and again the fact that Livery is available to anyone of good standing and good intent, irrespective of social or economic status and from any religious or sexual orientation is extremely important to me. My father worked for the local Electricity Board after being demobbed from the Air Force after the War, and my mother, who was also in the RAF, had been among other things a Barrage balloon operator and an instrument repairer.

Growing up in the Midlands in the fifties and sixties was utterly uneventful- and I went to university not through any burning ambition but because that was "what you do if you go to the Grammar (School)".

After graduation, although I was offered a place in a City Firm to train as an actuary, the lure of becoming a Geologist (one of my degree subjects) proved stronger and I moved to Leeds to join the Geological Survey (now BGS). There I researched published surveys and maps across the North of England and lowland Scotland.

It was only in 1986 after a Master's and a Doctorate that I joined the Firm of Touche Ross (later to become Deloitte) as a management consultant, becoming partner in 1989. In the meantime my two oldest daughters arrived, and I fear saw not enough of me, since I was then heavily involved in my career and as Chair of the East of England Orchestra (now Sinfonia Viva) and not enough at home. My eldest daughter is a Freeman and I hope will take Livery, but my other daughters and my son regard it as a bit of a mystery and since none of them are in the City or in the trades that we are close to, may or may not

join in time. It would be a dull world if we all had the same interests!

After leaving Deloitte, and then returning to the Firm to run a dotcom start up in 2000, I went on to work for over ten years with Anglo American, the mining giant, before returning to the UK and working in the Cabinet Office and various government departments as Director for data and digital and, most recently, as a Director of UCAS the university admissions charity.

My involvement in the Livery has been a huge and constant source of pleasure and interest. Quite apart from the fellowship which is the defining quality of the Pattenmakers, the places and events that form part of our calendar, and the part we play in the Civic life of the City, are a constant source of interest and challenge.

I became chair of the Membership Committee following my stint on Education and then on the Charity Committees, and was invited to join the Court, much to my surprise! Following that I moved through the process becoming Renter Warden in 2017, Upper Warden in 2018 and of course the pinnacle of this has been to be able to act as your Master for the last eighteen months. The last six of these months have been unique, and we have had to make it up as we have gone along. Covid-19 has also put paid to my live music making, and to other interests. But did give me the opportunity to do my summer walk, to spend time in the garden and with family and to write.

Below: me and Victoria, with, from left, son Victor, daughter Sophie, and on my left daughter Freeman Eleanor and husband Stuart. Julia and Diana my two youngest daughters are not present.



Events

Cyber Security and Coronavirus Freeman Richard Parlour



For any who might have missed the PatTEDmakers talk, here is a summary of the key points on cybersecurity issues.

It is not just the physical virus to worry about, but the virus of cybercrime. There has been a huge increase in phishing connected to the virus, so watch out for communications leading to fake virus “assistance” (like masks, sanitiser, “vaccines”, etc.), others leading to fake government and international body advice (criminals pretending to be WHO, CDC, NHS, etc.). The mode of delivery is also broadening, so the approach may come by email (phishing, or “spearphishing”, the latter where the crooks have picked up your name from another database so it looks all the more convincing), social media (“smishing”), video (“vishing”). Google has been blocking nearly 20 million scam emails a day. The National Cybersecurity Centre (NCSC, part of GCHQ) took down 471 fake CoVid online shops in March alone. Here are ten top tips to help protect you at this time:

1. Do not open emails from sources you do not recognise. Delete, then delete from your deleted box. Likewise do not click on suspect links, photos or attachments, or any other form of “clickbait”
2. If in doubt, contact the supposed sender by other means (not using any contact details provided in the email as these may also be false) to check it is for real
3. When ordering goods online, ensure the url (the website address you are ordering from)

has “https” to start with, not just “http”, and if it is a company you have not used before, check they have their full contact details online, and check they exist by looking at the Companies House registry. If it looks like a fake company, or the price is too good to be true, find someone else, ask contacts for a recommendation

4. Look at what data you keep electronically and classify it. What are your “data crown jewels”? Do they have to be kept on an internet accessible device? Have you protected that data and got a backup?
5. Make an inventory of all your IT kit, including software, phones, wifi and antivirus, and plan how to keep it updated and secure, on the move as well as at home
6. If you have an Alexa or other “personal digital assistant”, it is listening to you, ALL the time. There are real people the other end listening in. Are you happy with that?!
7. Do not use the same password for all your key services (e.g. any online banking, your email access, etc.) and change any factory provided passwords to your own one. Use stronger passwords with numbers and symbols
8. Be careful about what personal data you put onto social media. Whatever you put online is accessible by others unknown to you, and stays there forever
9. Make sure you are as resilient as you can be. Do not have just one online account, have multiple accounts and methods of payment. Have more than one email address, and provider. Think about how you would handle a key provider or service going down, or your IT kit or software failing
10. Back up all your data regularly, to disk or a spare hard drive, not just to the cloud. Store the backup in a separate location to your IT kit

Good luck! If you are running a business, watch out for next week’s article which will cover top tips for business on cybersecurity.

Photo of the Week

The Clerk's somewhat over-zealous PPE preparations prior to a visit to the Supermarket



Bird Watch

Bird of the week this week is the Grey Wagtail - Freeman Richard Parlour



We have a few wagtails in the UK and there are lots of subspecies, so identification can be a challenge. Although this bird is called the grey wagtail, the amount of yellow on it makes some believe they have seen a yellow wagtail, but a yellow wagtail has far more yellow on it, and is a summer visitor, whereas the grey wagtail is an all year round UK resident (apart from the highlands of Scotland where it is a summer visitor). They are gradually expanding into English lowlands from

their northern and upland quarters. The other types of wagtail you may see are pied and white wagtails, and rarely, a blue headed wagtail. More of those in a future column. The grey wagtail has a grey head and back, but a black throat on the male (whitish on the female) and a yellow underbelly. It has a longer tail than other wagtails. The best places to see them are on the banks of reservoirs or lakes, or fast flowing streams, although they are often seen on farmland, particularly in horse paddocks and grassy areas where there are flies and other insects. They have a particularly distinctive undulating flight and a delightful trilling call as they go. They always sound full of the joys of spring! Of course, their most distinctive behaviour is the wagging (more like flicking) of its tail. It really can't keep it still. They do not mind people so much and can come quite close. There are not so many of them though, thought to be around 38,000 pairs, and they are on the UK red list. Pied wagtails are felt to be at least a dozen times more numerous. The male in display makes short flights up into the air and descends slowly with fluttering flight accompanied by a rapid series of chipping high notes. They build a nest near water and are not averse to using manmade structures. They nest in similar places to dippers, and there are records of adult wagtails feeding dipper chicks, a rare example of inter species co-operation. Clutch size is around 3-6 eggs with an 80% breeding success rate. In winter time, you might see them foraging along paths and roadsides, perhaps in small groups. If disturbed, then often fly up, circle around, and then return to where they were feeding when the danger has passed. They live up to eight years.

In recent weeks, bird lovers have emerged from months of lockdown and begun to move around again, visiting sites after the strangest few months many of us will ever experience. Many nature reserves and birding hotspots have not yet fully reopened and of those that have, while most have trails open, they are yet to reopen most hides. There is no government advice on use of hides. In general, you are strongly encouraged to wear a face covering in enclosed public spaces where social distancing may be difficult and where you come into contact with people you do not normally meet. However, other guidance says:

"[Masks] are not required in entertainment venues, visitor attractions, exercise venues." Hides are clearly enclosed public spaces but they are also visitor attractions, so what should hide users be doing? Nobody is wiping surfaces down. Several birders have reported leaving hides feeling uncomfortable when they felt numbers had reached a level where social distancing became more difficult and those in the hide were not masked. Here are some simple measures you could adopt to help protect yourself and others:

- Wear a face covering inside any hide where others are present;
- Be careful about touching high touch surfaces;
- Carry hand sanitiser to use before and after entering hides;
- Read and follow any site specific guidelines;
- Leave doors and shutters open to reduce contact points for all;
- Enter hides slowly where all the windows are open to avoid flushing birds.

If using a hide is not essential, it is probably best to avoid them at all during the pandemic, even with the weather likely to deteriorate as we go into autumn. You might be better off sitting on a log or bench, or even take a fold up chair with you. Above all, stay safe and be courteous and sensible if out birding, especially if it involves using a hide.

Recipe of the Week

Miso

The Clerk's Partner Sharon Judge

In the early 90's, whilst *trying to decide what I wanted to be when I grew up*, I back-packed around Asia for 2 years. Part of that journey included a spell living in Japan with an in-law and this recipe for **Miso* epitomises my introduction to the delicate fusion of flavours that in my view remains one of the most beautiful cuisines in the world. I stayed in Tokyo with the heiress to Shimano gears, and, as a newcomer to Japan, frequently making horrendous faux pas, like not taking off my shoes before entering the home (an absolute no-no) and, (in my defence by reflex

action), displaying horror at a BBQ when I saw a Canadian girl eat a great big eye ball she took from the socket of a humungous tuna! The Japanese are a gentle, respectful people and politeness in words and body language is a prerequisite in every situation and at all times. Tokyo was followed by a longer spell nestled in the mountains on the periphery of Nagano Prefecture (home of the 1998 winter Olympics). My in-law's gardener, Matzke-San (Mr Matzke), was in his early 90's and I recall a jaw-dropping scene when he swung an axe around his head and felled a very tall, diseased tree with the same ease of a 21 year old!! Japan leads the world in longevity and diet seems to be the key. Matzke-San was rewarded, as we all were that lunch time, with this stunning soup (Miso is a staple diet in Japan and has an ancient history), which is never eaten with a spoon, but with hands cupped around a delicate bowl, and slurped. Unbeknown then to a somewhat green *Gaijin* (foreigner), this is perfectly polite and acceptable conduct in Japanese society, and Matzke-San was indeed, an Olympic slurper.

However, back in Blighty, your learned Clerk is frequently inflicted with a killer glance of one raised eyebrow during noisy episodes of sustenance, followed by the accusatory words :

"MATSKE-SAN!"

PS I have still yet to decide what I want to be when I grow up...

MISO

*Miso ingredients are easily ordered online from The Japan Centre: [Japan Centre](#)

Ingredients – Serves 4

2 pints cold water

1 pack dried Wel-Pac Dashi Kombu (dried seaweed) 113g

1 pack WadaQ dried Katusobushi Skipjack Tuna Flakes 40g

1 carton miso paste (e.g. Hanamaruki Red Miso (Shinshuu Aka Miso), 500 g

1 pack Wel-Pac dried shredded Wakame seaweed 56g

3 spring onions, finely sliced

Optional additions to the soup:

Tofu

Shimeji mushrooms (if available)

Method

1. Score 2 large pieces of dashi kombu (this releases the flavour and healthy trace elements) and place in the cold water. Bring to the boil.
2. REDUCE HEAT, then add 2 handfuls of Katsuobushi fish flakes. Simmer very gently for 1- 2 minutes. Sieve, discarding the Kombu and fish flakes. You will just be left with the stock.
3. Add 2 tablespoons of miso paste (adjust to taste, if you prefer stronger – I usually add more, but keep checking the flavour).
4. Finish by adding a small amount of wakame seaweed (a tiny palmful) and the sliced spring onion. You can add cubed Tofu if preferred, or a few of the delicate shimeji mushrooms if available, but if not, it will not detract from the fabulous flavours of this soup.
5. Serve hot and stirred (Miso sinks) – but do not boil as this may impair the taste.

Miso is *oishii desu* (delicious) and you will be a convert, I am sure! Enjoy.

All contributions are welcome – please send to the Editor Ian Balcombe ianbalc@gmail.com
Deadline – Midday on Tuesday each week

Quiz of the Week

Several good entries this week led by Assistant Steve Huxham and Steward Raymond Lewis so well done to all.

The Answers to last week were:

1. Name the lead singer in the 70's pop group Showaddywaddy? **Dave Bartram**
2. How many breathes will a human body take in one day (24hrs)? **Some 20,000, I thought this was a stupid question as surely it depends on what you are doing**
3. What is the world's smallest bird? **Bee Humming Bird (could have saved this for this week's quiz if I had known)**
4. Who invented "Cats Eyes" (on the road)? **Percy Shaw**
5. What is Barbie Doll's full name? **Barbara Millicent Roberts**
6. What did Al Capone's business card say his occupation was? **Used furniture salesman**
7. Who invented the tin can for preserving food and in what year? **Peter Durand in 1810**

This week's questions:

1. What sex are worker bees?
2. What is Propolis?
3. Which Club is Bertie Wooster a member of?
4. What is a skep?
5. Which bird in the UK is infamous for attacking beehives
6. If the calendar year ends in a five or a zero what colour is used to mark a queen bee?
7. Which building in the City of London now has beehives on the roof?
8. What is the collective noun for beehives?
9. Which City Livery Company has a Hall in Gresham Street?
10. What did the Clerk do last Thursday?

That will be enough for now.

Please send an email to clerk@pattenmakers.co.uk with your answers. The winner(s) will be announced in a subsequent edition of the Newsletter